

FOURTH REGIMENT.

BY COLONEL E. A. OSBORNE.

To write a full and accurate history of this noble body of men would require far more time, ability and space than the present writer can command. But as the honor and distinction of writing a brief sketch has fallen to my lot, I cheerfully and gratefully address myself to the task, feeling at the same time deeply conscious of my unworthiness and inability to handle such a theme. I cannot conceive of a braver, truer, nobler, more devoted and self-denying body of men than was this splendid regiment of North Carolinians. In every position, under the most trying circumstances in which men can be placed, from the camp of instruction to the close of a four years' war—a war that involved more hardships, more persevering courage and fortitude, more self-denial, more devotion, more true manhood and endurance, more love of home, of country and of principle, and more true heroism on the part of the men of the South than has been manifested at least in modern times, these devoted men, ever forgetful of self, and following firmly and steadily in the lead of patriotic duty, without pay, and suffering for the bare necessities of life most of the time, never flinched nor murmured; but endured with sublime patience and fortitude the hardships of the camp, of the march, of the bivouac, and the many terrible scenes of strife, and blood, and carnage, through which they passed during these four long and terrible years of suffering and trial.

In writing this sketch I must be content to give a mere outline of actual occurrences. The facts simply stated speak for themselves. They need no embellishment to commend their actions to the admiration of all who value and love what is brave and